

We claim:

Sub A1
~~1. A recording unit for recording an event, comprising:
a data acquisition device for obtaining recording
data representing the content of the event;
5 a data storage device for storing data, including
recording data;
a control interface device for enabling a recorder to
control operation of the recording unit, the control
interface device further comprising marking means for
10 enabling the recorder to specify a non-contemporaneous
mark; and
a system controller that causes, in response to the
specification of a non-contemporaneous mark by the
recorder, the data storage device to store marking data
associating the non-contemporaneous mark with recording
15 data obtained at a marked time different from the marking
time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified
by the recorder.~~

Sub B2
~~2. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking
means is adapted to enable specification of a retrospective
mark that is associated with recording data obtained at a
marked time prior to the marking time at which the
retrospective mark was specified by the recorder.~~

~~3. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking
means is adapted to enable specification of a predictive mark
that is associated with recording data obtained at a marked
time subsequent to the marking time at which the predictive
mark was specified by the recorder.~~

4. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data defines the marking time and a duration of time, the marked time being the time different from the marking time by the amount of the duration of time.

5. 5. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data defines the marked time directly.

Sub B3 → 6. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data further defines a confidence level that represents the certainty of the recorder that the marked recording data is the 10 recording data that the recorder desires to mark.

7. A recording unit as in Claim 6, wherein the value of the confidence level defines a range of time relative to the marked time.

8. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking 15 data further defines a range of time relative to the marked time.

9. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking means is adapted to enable specification of multiple types of non-contemporaneous marks, each type of mark having a different 20 meaning.

10. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking means further comprises:

means for indicating that a voice mark is to be imminently specified; and

25 means for identifying a voice mark, the means for identifying operable in response to an indication that a voice mark is to be imminently specified.

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11. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the recording unit is portable.

Sub B1 12. A recording unit as in Claim 11, further comprising means for mounting one or more components of the recording unit 5 on the body of the recorder.

C1 13. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises a visual data acquisition device.

D1 14. A recording unit as in Claim 13, wherein the data 10 acquisition device further comprises an audio data acquisition device.

Sub A2 15. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:
15 a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;
a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;
a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit, the control interface device further comprising marking means for enabling the recorder to specify multiple types of marks;
20 a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating the specified mark with particular recording data; and
25 means for mounting one or more components of the recording unit on the body of the recorder.

16. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks that are associated with recording data obtained at a time other than the time at which the mark is specified.

5 17. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating a level of importance or interest of the content which the marked recording data represents.

10 18. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating a characteristic of the content which the marked recording data represents.

15 19. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating the beginning or end of activity of interest.

20 20. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating the recording conditions.

Sub 136> 21. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the 20 multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating the recorder's state of mind.

22. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more privacy marks.

25 23. A portable recording unit as in Claim 22, wherein the one or more privacy marks includes a mark that indicates that the marked part of the recording is to be erased.

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24. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating different recording units.

25. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the 5 multiple types of marks include one or more marks identifying the person making the mark.

26. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks identifying a person appearing in the part of the recording represented by 10 the recording data associated with the mark.

27. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, further comprising means for enabling the recorder to specify the meaning of one or more of the multiple types of marks.

28. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, further 15 comprising means for changing the meaning of one or more marks.

29. A portable recording unit as in Claim 28, wherein the means for changing the meaning of one or more marks further comprises:

means for analyzing the recording data; and
20 means for changing the meaning of a mark based on the analysis of the recording data.

30. A portable recording unit as in Claim 28, wherein:
the portable recording unit further comprises means for obtaining data other than recording data; and
25 the means for changing the meaning of one or more marks further comprises means for changing the meaning of a mark based on the data other than the recording data.

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31. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, further comprising one or more marking tokens for enabling a person to specify a corresponding type of mark, each marking token adapted to enable physical separation of the marking token from 5 the control interface device.

32. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the marking means further comprises:

means for indicating that a voice mark is to be imminently specified; and

10 means for identifying a voice mark, the means for identifying operable in response to an indication that a voice mark is to be imminently specified.

33. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises a visual data 15 acquisition device.

34. A portable recording unit as in Claim 33, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises an audio data acquisition device.

Sub B7
35. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the 20 system controller causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, operation of the recording unit in a predetermined manner in accordance with the type of the mark.

Sub A3
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25 36. A recording unit for recording an event, comprising:
a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;
a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;

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a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit, the control interface device further comprising marking means for enabling the recorder to specify a mark; and

5 a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating the specified mark with particular recording data, and operation of the recording unit in a predetermined manner in accordance with the type of the mark.

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37. A recording unit as in Claim 36, wherein:
at least one mark indicates a level of importance or interest of the content which the marked recording data represents; and

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the system controller causes recording data corresponding to the at least one mark to be compressed in accordance with the level of importance or interest represented by the mark.

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38. A recording unit as in Claim 37, wherein the system controller causes compression of recording data to be reduced after a predetermined amount of time.

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39. A recording unit for recording an event, comprising:
a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;
a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;
a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit;

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means for producing a mark, wherein the means for producing a mark further comprises means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark based on the value of, or an analysis of, data acquired by the recording unit; and

a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating each mark with particular recording data.

Sub 15 10 40. A recording unit as in Claim 39, wherein the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, the recording data.

15 41. A recording unit as in Claim 39, wherein:
the recording unit further comprises means for acquiring data other than recording data; and
the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, the data other than recording data.

20 42. A recording unit as in Claim 41, wherein:
the means for acquiring data other than recording data further comprises a physiological monitoring device; and
the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, physiological monitoring data.

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43. A recording unit as in Claim 41, wherein:
the means for acquiring data other than recording
data further comprises a position sensing device; and
the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing
or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or
modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of,
position data.

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44. A recording unit as in Claim 39, wherein the means
for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an
existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the
proximity of the marking time to the marked time.

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45. For use in a recording unit being used by a recorder
to record an event, a method for non-contemporaneously marking
recording data obtained by the recording unit, comprising the
15 steps of:

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identifying the specification of a non-
contemporaneous mark; and
in response to an identification of the specification
of a non-contemporaneous mark, storing marking data
associating the non-contemporaneous mark with recording
data obtained at a marked time different from the marking
time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified.

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46. A method as in Claim 45, wherein:
the step of identifying further comprises identifying
the specification of a retrospective mark; and
the step of storing further comprises storing marking
data associating the retrospective mark with recording
data obtained at a marked time prior to the marking time
at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified.

47. A method as in Claim 45, wherein:
the step of identifying further comprises identifying
the specification of a predictive mark; and
the step of storing further comprises storing marking
5 data associating the predictive mark with recording data
obtained at a marked time subsequent to the marking time
at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified.
48. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data
defines the marking time and a duration of time, the marked
10 time being the time different from the marking time by the
amount of the duration of time.
49. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data
defines the marked time directly.
- Sub B1) 50. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data
15 further defines a confidence level that represents the
certainty of the recorder that the marked recording data is the
recording data that the recorder desires to mark.
51. A method as in Claim 50, wherein the value of the
confidence level defines a range of time relative to the marked
20 time.
52. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data
further defines a range of time relative to the marked time.
53. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the step of
identifying further comprises:
25 identifying an indication that a voice mark is to be
imminently specified; and
identifying a voice mark in response to an indication
that a voice mark is to be imminently specified.

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